

Godart stat. nov. et *Vanessa buana* Frhst. stat nov., bona species (*Linneana Belgica*, 1978, pars VII, 130-156).

The means of arrival of this specimen in Warwickshire can only be speculative. Examples of *V. i. callire* might possibly reach Britain as immigrants, as probably occurs occasionally in Portugal and south Spain, but for *V. i. indica*, whose nearest known place of residence is north west India, importation in early stages with produce or escape from some unreported breeding in captivity seem to be the least unlikely sources. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey GU5 OLE.]

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MELANIC FORM OF LOBOPHORA HALTERATA HUFN.: SERAPHIM (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE). — On 2nd 1982, I took in my garden m.v. trap at Dartford, a melanic male of this moth, black with grey submarginal line. On referring to the comprehensive list of melanic forms found in Britain in Appendix B of Kettlewell's *Evolution of Melanism* (1973), I was surprised to find no mention of this species. Later, while discussing the capture with Mr. R. G. Chatelain, he mentioned that a melanic ab. of this species — ab. *nigra* Warnecke — was referred to in his copy of M. Koch, *Wir Bestimmen Schmetterlinge*. Recently, whilst visiting the British Museum (Natural History), Mr. Chalmers-Hunt kindly checked the species in the private collection there, and found 15 specimens of ab. *nigra*, all taken by E. B. White at Bristol between 1926 and 1935.

This melanic form would appear to be both extremely local and rare in Britain; if it is an industrial melanic it will almost certainly be dominant with homozygote and heterozygote indistinguishable in appearance (Kettlewell, 1973). It would be interesting to know if the Bristol location for ab. *nigra* is still known, if the form still occurs there, and if so, how commonly. — B. K. WEST, 36, Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

THE FEATHERED BEAUTY: PERIBATODES SECUNDARIA D. & S. IN SUSSEX. — When I visited Mr. S. Church at his home at Plaistow, Sussex on the 14th July 1982, he showed me a female *Peribatodes secundaria* which he had taken in his garden trap the previous night. That evening there I saw a further four *P. secundaria*, all very worn males. It would seem therefore that to Mr. Church falls the distinction of being the first to record this species outside its Kentish locality. — R. G. CHATELAIN, 65, East Drive, Orpington, Kent.

AN EARLY APPEARANCE OF ERANNIS DEFOLIARIA CLERCK: MOTTLED UMBER. — On the night of 6 September 1982 a male specimen of this species was taken in a Rothamsted light trap in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Normally it does not appear in Monks Wood until mid October or later. The earliest previous record known to me was a male taken in the same trap on 25 September 1977. — J. N. GREATOREX-DAVIES, The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 2LS.